BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Issue: **99-44** **9** Pages
November 5, 1999

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped to 7.4% (seasonally adjusted) in October, its lowest level since September 1981.** However, the improvement in the jobless rate was not due to strength in the labour market. Between September and October, 14,800 people left the labour force. The ranks of the unemployed shrank by 12,200 despite a net loss of 2,600 jobs in October, suggesting that many of the people who had been looking for work in September were no longer doing so last month. The exodus from the labour force resulted in a 0.6 percentage point drop in the province's unemployment rate. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's unemployment rate was also down in October, falling to 7.2% (seasonally adjusted).** At the national level, the decline in the rate signalled continued strength in the economy. The Canadian labour force grew for the fourth month in a row, increasing by 32,600 (+0.2%). At the same time, the number of people with jobs expanded by 79,500 (+0.5%). Unemployment rates were down in all but three provinces. Alberta (5.2%) and Manitoba (5.4%) continued to have the lowest jobless rates in the country. Since June, all but two provinces (Newfoundland and PEI) have had single-digit unemployment rates—the first time this has happened in more than two decades.
Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of people with jobs in BC's service sector, which employs three-quarters of the province's workers, fell 0.4% (seasonally adjusted, 3-month moving average) between September and October.** Fewer jobs in the wholesale and retail trade (-4.0%) and health care and social services (-3.3%) industry were the main reason for the decline. However, the goods sector continued to pick up speed, with employment increasing 3.0%, marking the third month in a row that the number of jobs in this sector has risen. The agriculture (+9.9%) and resource-extracting (+8.2%) industries fared the best, but there was also strong growth in the construction industry (+4.3%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In the regions, unemployment rates ranged from 6.3% (3-month moving average) in Kootenay to 10.5% in Cariboo, the only region where the jobless rate was above ten percent in October.** Kootenay's jobless rate has been falling despite declining employment, indicating that the improvement in the rate is due to people leaving the labour force. Jobless rates were also down in Vancouver Island/Coast (to 6.7%), North Coast/Nechako (to 8.9%) and Cariboo (to 10.5%), reflecting employment gains in these regions. Unemployment rates in Mainland/South-west (7.5%), Thompson/Okanagan (7.6%) and Northeast (8.5%) were all higher than in October 1998. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities continued to fall in September, declining 19.4% (seasonally adjusted).** The decrease was due to fewer planned projects in both the residential (-12.0%) and non-residential (-27.1%) sectors. The value of planned institutional projects plunged 40.0%, posting its third straight monthly decline. Permits for commercial projects fell sharply (-29.1%), while those for industrial projects edged down 0.3%. Canadian permits also fell in September, but the decline (-1.9%) was much more moderate.
Source: Statistics Canada

Report **Municipal Population Estimates, 1999**

Did you know...
Now that the nights are getting longer...Canadian manufacturers shipped more than 20 million light bulbs and tubes to BC last year–just over 5 for every person living in the province.

- **Building permits in the province fell 11.4% between the second and third quarters, as the value of permits issued for both residential (-6.9%) and non-residential (-15.8%) projects declined.** BC was one of four provinces to show weakness in the third quarter (the other three were in Atlantic Canada). Canadian permits rose 2.4%, buoyed by activity in the prairies, Quebec (+7.5%) and Ontario (+3.1%). Saskatchewan (+23.9%) recorded the strongest increase. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **BC manufacturers surveyed in October had a less rosy outlook on their prospects than they did earlier in the year.** Twenty-five percent expected their production to increase in the fourth quarter, down from 29% of those surveyed in July. The percentage of manufacturers who were pessimistic (25%) was more than double that (11%) in the third quarter. Overall, the balance of opinion on production was 0.

  Despite a somewhat gloomier outlook, more manufacturers expected new orders to increase (22%) than to decline (12%). However, manufacturers were happier about their inventory levels than in previous quarters. Earlier in the year, about a quarter of them thought their finished product inventory would be too high. In October, the percentage had declined to 16. Three-quarters said they expected their inventory levels to be about right. A similar number said they didn't expect to encounter any production difficulties in the fourth quarter.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of existing homes sold in BC was virtually unchanged (-0.1%, seasonally adjusted) in September.** Nationally, MLS residential sales dropped 0.8% between August and September, as sales fell or were flat in most provinces. The exceptions were Saskatchewan (+3.3%), Quebec (+1.2%) and Nova Scotia (+1.2%). Although the real estate market in BC has been weak, average prices in the province continued to edge up. They were 2.3% higher this September than a year earlier. The average home sold for $213,400 in September, 24% more than in Ontario ($171,856), which has the country's second most expensive housing. The Canadian average was $157,548.

  Source: Canadian Real Estate Association data

Family Maintenance

- **The average current caseload of the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program is expected to reach 41,900 in 1999/00, more than double the total (19,689) in 1992/93, and 10% more than in 1998/99, when 38,084 people who were owed child support payments were enrolled in the program.** The increased caseload reflects changes to family law, which require income assistance recipients who are entitled to child support to enroll in the program. The average caseload involving debtors who lived in BC was 34,019 in 1998/99. These debtors owed $126 million, of which $85 million was recovered. About 35% of family maintenance orders (active cases where the debtor lived in BC) were paid in full and 54% were partly paid. No money was recovered in 11% of cases.

  Source: Ministry of Attorney General, Key Indicators Report

On the Road

- **Have you ever wondered why there seem to be so many vehicles with Saskatchewan plates on the road?** It may be because Saskatchewan residents are the most car-happy people in the country. There were 799,000 passenger cars, trucks and truck tractors registered in that province last year–one for every person aged 15 or over. Forty percent of the vehicles were trucks. Albertans (1.1 people per vehicle) were almost as likely to own a vehicle as their eastern neighbours, but they were less apt to be cruising in a truck (19%). In BC, there was one road vehicle registration for every 1.5 people who were potentially eligible to drive. The national average was 1.4. Ratios in other provinces ranged from 1.3 in both New Brunswick and PEI to 1.6 in Quebec. Trucks were most popular in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Atlantic Canada. Twenty-seven percent of the registered vehicles in BC were trucks. The national average was 21%.

  Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

highlights, Issue 99-44
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BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and
Corporate Relations

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Release: October 1999

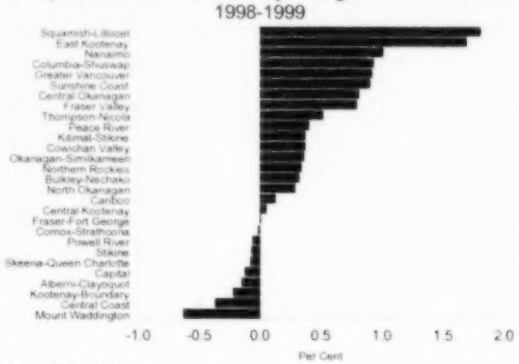
Municipal Population Estimates ◆ 1999

British Columbia Population Still Growing in 1999

Despite recording a significant outflow of migrants to the rest of Canada, British Columbia was still the third fastest growing province in Canada between 1998 and 1999. The population of British Columbia grew at a rate of 0.7 per cent, or 26,476 persons, between July 1, 1998 and July 1, 1999. Only Ontario (1.3 per cent) and Alberta (2.0 per cent) had higher growth rates among the provinces (although the Northwest Territories and Nunavut also had higher growth rates at 1.3 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively). The growth was driven by a net inflow of migrants from other countries and an excess of births over deaths (natural increase).

Surprisingly, the population growth was fairly evenly distributed across the province. In the past when there were slowdowns in the resource sectors, there were large intra-provincial movements from the resource-dependent centres toward the Lower Mainland and the Greater Victoria regions. These movements within the province have generally cancelled out the movement out of these urban areas to other provinces, leaving the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria areas with strong positive growth despite the weak growth for the province overall. This does not appear to be the case this time around. The Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver Regional Districts recorded slightly higher than average growth rates of 0.8 percent and 0.9 per cent respectively, while the Capital Regional District, which contains Greater Victoria, actually experienced a slight decline in population of 0.1 per cent. This is likely attributable to the fact that the inter-provincial outflows were larger than the province has experienced in the recent past.

Population Growth by Regional District
1998-1999



Source: BC Stats

With the exception of the Capital Regional District, the regions that experienced population declines are generally resource-dependent areas. The struggling forest sector is the driving force for much of the population decline, but poor markets for minerals and the consequent effects on the mining industry also contributed to poor population growth in some areas. For example, despite the booming oil and gas sector in the Northeast throughout 1998, population growth to that area has been tempered by the layoffs at the two coal mines in Tumbler Ridge. Gold River is another area that endured a critical loss of jobs after the pulp mill closed.

Strong growth in tourism and technology-based industries helped counteract the effects of the resource sectors in some areas. The area around Whistler continues to lead

the province in growth. The population of Whistler has more than doubled in size since 1991, and although growth is slowing as the municipality is beginning to reach the saturation point, nearby communities like Pemberton are benefiting from the spin-off effects. On Vancouver Island, the District Municipality of Tofino has posted four consecutive years of 5 per cent or greater population growth. Tofino seems to be successfully diversifying its economic base away from a high dependence on resource extraction industries. This may serve as a model to other communities currently struggling with mill and mine closures.

Other highlights from the 1999 Municipal and Regional District Estimates include:

- As was the case in the last couple of years, the total British Columbia growth rate (0.7%) is slightly higher than the rate of growth of the sum of the incorporated municipalities (0.6%). This indicates that the rural unincorporated areas in British Columbia are growing at a faster rate than the more urban incorporated areas.

- Of the 152 incorporated municipalities within British Columbia, just over half experienced an increase in population over the last year.

- Like the province as a whole, high growth areas like the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan have experienced a considerable slowdown in population expansion. Growth in Kelowna was negligible after more than a decade where annual growth rarely fell below two per cent.
- In the Capital region, population growth continues to spread outward from the core, with reasonably steady growth in the Western Communities, but small declines in the core municipalities of Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Saanich. The town of View Royal had the largest growth rate for municipalities with over 5,000 population (with the exception of Quesnel and Williams Lake where the growth was due to large boundary extensions).

- Population growth continues to be relatively strong in the east-central portion of the Island, with above average growth in the Nanaimo region and the Comox Valley.

- The East Kootenay region experienced surprisingly strong growth, which may be due in part to the proximity of the region to Alberta.

- Masset appears to be making a comeback, recovering from a 20 per cent reduction in population following the closure of its military base, with a 13 per cent jump in population between 1998 and 1999.

Municipal estimates are calculated by the Population Section of BC Stats through a regional estimation model that has been developed and refined over the past 19 years. This model, which uses indicators such as residential electrical connections and Old Age Security data, has enabled BC Stats to produce relatively accurate population estimates without the high cost of conducting a census.

Knowledge of population growth and where it occurs are vital to the planning process. For this reason the Municipal and Regional District Estimates are an important tool for the provincial and local governments in assessing current and future community needs.

The population estimates for 1996 to 1999 (as well as the estimates for 1976 to 1995) are available on the BC Stats web site: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

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Release: October 1999

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 1996÷	1996-97 % Chg.	Estimate 1997	1997-98 % Chg.	Estimate 1998	1998-99 % Chg.	Estimate 1999
Alberni-Clayoquot		**32,906**	**1.4**	**33,357**	**-0.1**	**33,335**	**-0.2**	**33,284**
Port Alberni	C *	19,201	2.3	19,638	-0.7	19,499	-0.8	19,334
Tofino	DM	1,222	5.8	1,293	6.9	1,382	7.0	1,479
Ucluelet	DM	1,731	0.6	1,742	-0.1	1,740	1.4	1,764
Bulkley-Nechako		**43,383**	**2.5**	**44,474**	**1.2**	**45,024**	**0.3**	**45,169**
Burns Lake	VL	1,871	1.2	1,894	-0.4	1,887	0.1	1,888
Fort St. James	DM	2,136	0.6	2,149	-1.4	2,118	-0.3	2,111
Fraser Lake	VL	1,403	-3.6	1,352	-1.6	1,330	-3.5	1,283
Granisle	VL	462	1.9	471	-2.5	459	-0.7	456
Houston	DM	4,106	4.3	4,281	1.1	4,330	-2.3	4,232
Smithers	T	5,868	2.1	5,989	1.2	6,062	0.1	6,069
Telkwa	VL	1,243	7.8	1,340	4.7	1,403	1.0	1,417
Vanderhoof	DM	4,589	2.6	4,709	0.4	4,728	1.0	4,777
Capital		**331,761**	**0.9**	**334,722**	**0.0**	**334,786**	**-0.1**	**334,368**
Central Saanich	DM	15,155	1.1	15,326	1.0	15,475	0.2	15,509
Colwood	C	14,412	1.2	14,578	1.1	14,732	-0.4	14,676
Esquimalt	DM	16,855	-0.2	16,824	-1.0	16,648	-1.4	16,423
Highlands	DM	1,481	3.7	1,536	1.8	1,563	2.5	1,602
Langford	DM	18,242	4.8	19,110	1.4	19,386	0.9	19,567
Metchosin	DM	4,899	1.4	4,967	1.0	5,016	0.3	5,030
North Saanich	DM	10,772	1.1	10,889	0.4	10,936	-0.2	10,918
Oak Bay	DM	18,493	-0.8	18,345	-1.1	18,142	-1.3	17,900
Saanich	DM	105,463	1.3	106,798	0.0	106,839	-0.1	106,695
Sidney	T	11,084	-0.4	11,037	1.8	11,237	-0.3	11,202
Victoria	C	76,831	-0.1	76,732	-1.0	75,990	-0.9	75,283
View Royal	T	6,704	3.2	6,920	1.6	7,030	4.2	7,325
Cariboo		**69,976**	**3.2**	**72,245**	**0.9**	**72,895**	**0.1**	**72,988**
Quesnel	C *	8,824	3.0	9,091	-1.2	8,984	17.9	10,589
Wells	DM	--	--	--	--	272	-5.1	258
Williams Lake	C *	10,917	2.6	11,205	0.6	11,277	5.7	11,917
100 Mile House	DM	1,925	5.5	2,031	2.2	2,075	-1.4	2,046
Central Coast		**4,087**	**5.5**	**4,312**	**0.6**	**4,336**	**-0.4**	**4,320**
Central Kootenay		**60,324**	**1.4**	**61,146**	**0.5**	**61,433**	**0.1**	**61,466**
Castlegar	C	7,302	0.6	7,347	0.6	7,388	0.1	7,393
Creston	T	4,990	2.3	5,107	0.5	5,132	-0.8	5,089
Kaslo	VL	1,101	1.3	1,115	0.2	1,117	-1.0	1,106
Nakusp	VL	1,807	-0.2	1,803	1.8	1,835	-2.6	1,788
Nelson	C	9,968	-0.1	9,960	-2.4	9,716	-0.2	9,694
New Denver	VL	600	1.0	606	-0.5	603	1.5	612
Salmo	VL	1,247	1.2	1,262	1.3	1,278	-1.7	1,256
Silverton	VL	249	1.6	253	-1.2	250	-4.0	240
Slocan	VL	348	0.0	348	0.9	351	-3.4	339
Central Okanagan		**141,912**	**3.0**	**146,206**	**2.3**	**149,539**	**0.8**	**150,755**
Kelowna	C	93,045	2.3	95,202	2.1	97,200	0.2	97,385
Lake Country	DM	9,348	2.6	9,594	-0.8	9,515	0.2	9,532
Peachland	DM	4,684	2.6	4,805	-0.2	4,795	0.8	4,833

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 1996	1996-97 % Chg.	Estimate 1997	1997-98 % Chg.	Estimate 1998	1998-99 % Chg.	Estimate 1999
Columbia-Shuswap		**49,962**	**2.4**	**51,161**	**2.0**	**52,164**	**0.9**	**52,653**
Golden	T	4,134	1.8	4,207	-1.0	4,166	0.6	4,193
Revelstoke	C	8,373	0.5	8,418	-1.2	8,318	-1.1	8,226
Salmon Arm	DM	15,211	3.6	15,761	2.7	16,193	0.6	16,285
Sicamous	DM	2,931	2.5	3,004	4.8	3,149	0.5	3,165
Comox-Strathcona		**101,520**	**2.5**	**104,058**	**1.2**	**105,338**	**0.0**	**105,321**
Campbell River	DM *	30,042	3.1	30,972	1.4	31,404	-0.3	31,295
Comox	T *	11,483	2.1	11,719	1.9	11,942	1.8	12,153
Courtenay	C *	18,052	4.6	18,875	1.8	19,209	1.6	19,511
Cumberland	VL	2,645	3.7	2,744	0.2	2,749	-0.8	2,726
Gold River	VL	2,125	-3.4	2,053	-5.0	1,950	-7.7	1,800
Sayward	VL	457	1.8	465	-2.8	452	-4.4	432
Tahsis	VL	981	-1.3	968	-6.7	903	-2.0	885
Zeballos	VL	242	4.1	252	-3.6	243	1.2	246
Cowichan Valley		**73,676**	**2.3**	**75,382**	**1.0**	**76,103**	**0.4**	**76,386**
Duncan	C	4,761	3.3	4,918	-0.4	4,899	-2.4	4,781
Ladysmith	T	6,704	1.7	6,820	0.9	6,881	0.0	6,878
Lake Cowichan	T	2,966	2.1	3,028	1.0	3,058	0.2	3,064
North Cowichan	DM	26,275	1.7	26,718	1.4	27,085	1.0	27,346
East Kootenay		**58,608**	**1.7**	**59,583**	**0.9**	**60,140**	**1.7**	**61,163**
Cranbrook	C *	18,869	2.6	19,352	1.0	19,542	1.3	19,797
Elkford	DM	2,837	-0.1	2,835	-0.7	2,816	-0.4	2,805
Fernie	C	5,072	0.8	5,114	-0.1	5,107	1.9	5,203
Invermere	DM	2,792	3.9	2,901	1.2	2,936	0.4	2,947
Kimberley	C	6,997	-0.3	6,974	-0.5	6,938	-0.3	6,916
Radium Hot Springs	VL	550	5.3	579	0.3	581	4.1	605
Sparwood	DM	4,144	-1.5	4,083	1.8	4,156	0.2	4,163
Fraser Valley		**231,440**	**2.1**	**236,209**	**1.1**	**238,694**	**0.8**	**240,601**
Abbotsford	C	109,758	2.5	112,459	0.8	113,375	0.7	114,216
Chilliwack	C	62,591	1.4	63,470	1.6	64,484	1.2	65,263
Harrison Hot Springs	VL	932	14.1	1,063	2.0	1,084	2.0	1,106
Hope	DM	6,481	3.3	6,692	1.7	6,806	0.3	6,826
Kent	DM	5,049	1.6	5,132	2.2	5,246	1.3	5,316
Mission	DM	31,747	1.4	32,179	1.1	32,528	0.4	32,660
Fraser-Fort George		**103,202**	**2.2**	**105,432**	**1.0**	**106,517**	**0.0**	**106,526**
Mackenzie	DM	6,270	0.8	6,322	-0.5	6,290	-0.6	6,250
McBride	VL	770	3.4	796	-2.8	774	-2.2	757
Prince George	C	78,396	1.9	79,915	1.1	80,801	0.1	80,845
Valemount	VL	1,357	1.9	1,383	0.9	1,395	-2.4	1,362
Greater Vancouver		**1,910,314**	**2.0**	**1,948,561**	**1.2**	**1,972,814**	**0.9**	**1,990,961**
Anmore	VL	999	2.4	1,023	13.6	1,162	8.5	1,261
Belcarra	VL	690	2.2	705	0.3	707	0.0	707
Burnaby	C	187,086	1.1	189,057	0.1	189,183	0.6	190,272
Coquitlam	C	106,129	2.1	108,346	1.9	110,423	1.0	111,534
Delta	DM	99,233	1.4	100,574	0.4	101,018	0.1	101,098
Langley	C	23,484	1.2	23,774	1.3	24,094	0.3	24,178
Langley	DM	83,359	2.9	85,806	2.1	87,595	1.0	88,489
Lions Bay	VL	1,398	0.4	1,404	0.6	1,413	0.0	1,413
Maple Ridge	DM	58,457	2.7	60,014	1.6	60,987	1.6	61,970
New Westminster	C	51,591	1.6	52,433	2.2	53,575	1.1	54,177
North Vancouver	C	43,355	0.9	43,739	1.6	44,428	0.5	44,640
North Vancouver	DM	83,585	1.4	84,786	0.6	85,292	0.3	85,509
Pitt Meadows	DM	13,984	2.9	14,395	0.8	14,504	1.7	14,756
Port Coquitlam	C	48,687	2.9	50,093	1.4	50,799	0.7	51,130

Greater Vancouver continued...

Greater Vancouver continued...

Port Moody	C	21,732	4.3	22,663	2.1	23,134	2.6	23,736

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 1996	1996-97 % Chg.	Estimate 1997	1997-98 % Chg.	Estimate 1998	1998-99 % Chg.	Estimate 1999
Richmond	C	155,005	2.6	158,965	1.9	161,957	1.3	164,009
Surrey	C	317,290	2.8	326,063	1.9	332,244	1.1	336,034
Vancouver	C	537,587	1.8	547,067	1.0	552,481	1.0	558,232
West Vancouver	DM	42,354	0.9	42,717	-0.1	42,664	-0.3	42,541
White Rock	C	17,870	0.8	18,011	-1.8	17,689	-0.7	17,573
Kitimat-Stikine		**45,457**	**2.2**	**46,459**	**0.0**	**46,449**	**0.4**	**46,622**
Hazelton	VL	364	-0.5	362	1.9	369	-0.5	367
Kitimat	DM	11,587	1.3	11,742	-0.4	11,692	-0.2	11,672
New Hazelton	DM	859	1.7	874	-2.6	851	-1.8	836
Stewart	DM	895	-7.2	831	-11.4	736	-4.6	702
Terrace	C *	13,325	3.0	13,722	0.5	13,788	0.3	13,836
Kootenay-Boundary		**34,134**	**0.2**	**34,209**	**0.0**	**34,212**	**-0.2**	**34,136**
Fruitvale	VL	2,196	-0.1	2,194	-1.0	2,172	-0.9	2,153
Grand Forks	C	4,146	3.8	4,305	-0.2	4,298	0.5	4,320
Greenwood	C	813	0.2	815	-2.8	792	-3.9	761
Midway	VL	711	-0.3	709	-2.4	692	-0.9	686
Montrose	VL	1,179	-0.2	1,177	0.1	1,178	-0.8	1,169
Rossland	C	3,950	-1.3	3,897	-1.2	3,849	0.3	3,859
Trail	C *	7,979	-2.4	7,789	-0.3	7,767	-1.8	7,626
Warfield	VL	1,858	-1.7	1,826	0.1	1,827	-1.5	1,800
Mount Waddington		**15,224**	**1.2**	**15,401**	**-0.8**	**15,277**	**-0.6**	**15,181**
Alert Bay	VL	638	-11.8	563	-1.4	555	-0.4	553
Port Alice	VL	1,387	-1.0	1,373	-2.3	1,342	-3.7	1,293
Port Hardy	DM	5,512	-0.5	5,485	-2.0	5,377	-1.8	5,281
Port McNeill	T	3,052	2.1	3,117	-0.4	3,104	0.2	3,109
Nanaimo		**126,483**	**3.1**	**130,382**	**1.3**	**132,063**	**1.0**	**133,404**
Nanaimo	C	72,950	2.8	74,977	0.9	75,626	0.7	76,173
Parksville	C	9,816	3.4	10,150	1.0	10,251	1.0	10,358
Qualicum Beach	T	6,948	3.3	7,175	2.9	7,385	0.1	7,390
North Okanagan		**74,344**	**2.3**	**76,067**	**0.5**	**76,418**	**0.3**	**76,640**
Armstrong	C	4,053	2.2	4,142	1.3	4,196	0.5	4,216
Coldstream	DM	9,307	1.9	9,486	0.6	9,539	0.1	9,551
Enderby	C	2,853	2.4	2,922	-0.3	2,912	-0.1	2,909
Lumby	VL	1,755	3.9	1,824	-1.4	1,798	-2.1	1,760
Spallumcheen	DM	5,523	2.0	5,631	0.9	5,684	0.1	5,688
Vernon	C *	33,059	2.5	33,887	1.3	34,332	-0.3	34,227
Northern Rockies		**6,127**	**4.7**	**6,417**	**0.4**	**6,443**	**0.3**	**6,465**
Fort Nelson	T	4,612	3.7	4,781	0.0	4,780	-0.1	4,777
Okanagan-Similkameen		**78,750**	**1.6**	**80,016**	**0.1**	**80,082**	**0.4**	**80,370**
Keremeos	VL	1,206	-0.6	1,199	-0.6	1,192	-0.2	1,190
Oliver	T	4,434	1.8	4,513	-1.4	4,448	-1.4	4,385
Osoyoos	T	4,160	3.7	4,313	1.8	4,392	0.5	4,415
Penticton	C	32,161	1.2	32,544	-0.1	32,526	0.3	32,627
Princeton	T	2,932	1.7	2,983	-0.5	2,967	0.5	2,981
Summerland	DM	10,949	0.7	11,026	-1.2	10,895	-0.4	10,856

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 1996†	1996-97 % Chg.	Estimate 1997	1997-98 % Chg.	Estimate 1998	1998-99 % Chg.	Estimate 1999
Peace River		**58,887**	**1.3**	**59,675**	**0.8**	**60,128**	**0.4**	**60,370**
Chetwynd	DM	3,119	-1.3	3,080	-4.1	2,954	3.6	3,059
Dawson Creek	C	11,602	0.5	11,665	1.1	11,796	0.1	11,812
Fort St. John	C	15 714	1.6	15,962	2 1	16,295	0.9	16,448
Hudson's Hope	DM	1,165	0.3	1,168	-1.7	1,148	0.3	1,152
Pouce Coupe	VL	930	0.0	930	1.7	946	-1.9	928
Taylor	DM	1,077	1.7	1,095	3.6	1,134	6.8	1,211
Tumbler Ridge	DM	3,939	-2.6	3,837	-9.6	3,469	-17.6	2,858
Powell River		**20,698**	**2.3**	**21,184**	**0.1**	**21,195**	**-0.1**	**21,182**
Powell River	DM	13,637	2.4	13,971	-0.3	13,930	-0.2	13,900
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD **	35	0.0	35	0.0	35	0.0	35
Skeena-Queen Charlotte		**25,863**	**0.2**	**25,923**	**-1.7**	**25,487**	**-0.1**	**25,467**
Masset	VL	1,352	-20.2	1,079	-1.0	1,068	13.4	1,211
Port Clements	VL	583	3.1	601	0.7	605	-5.3	573
Port Edward	DM	732	5.6	773	0.6	778	-0.8	772
Prince Rupert	C	17,432	0.9	17,581	-2.4	17,164	-1.0	16,985
Squamish-Lillooet		**32,123**	**6.0**	**34,049**	**3.6**	**35,272**	**1.8**	**35,911**
Lillooet	DM	3,007	1.2	3,044	-1.0	3,014	-1.4	2,971
Pemberton	VL *	899	31.5	1,182	14.5	1,353	22.6	1,659
Squamish	DM	14,578	3.5	15,092	1.6	15,337	0.1	15,359
Whistler	DM	7,607	11.2	8,461	8.3	9,167	2.9	9,430
Stikine		**1,450**	**2.2**	**1,482**	**-0.4**	**1,476**	**-0.1**	**1,475**
Sunshine Coast		**25,833**	**2.8**	**26,565**	**1.6**	**27,003**	**0.9**	**27,248**
Gibsons	T	3,875	0.7	3,902	0.4	3,919	-0.9	3,885
Sechelt	DM	7,611	5.6	8,035	2.7	8,254	1.6	8,387
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD **	766	8.1	828	1.4	840	3.1	866
Thompson-Nicola		**123,599**	**2.5**	**126,723**	**1.1**	**128,154**	**0.5**	**128,821**
Ashcroft	VL	1,924	3.3	1,988	-1.9	1,950	1.2	1,974
Cache Creek	VL	1,158	3.3	1,196	-3.5	1,154	-0.8	1,145
Chase	VL	2,546	1.8	2,593	-0.6	2,578	-0.3	2,571
Clinton	VL	757	0.7	762	1.3	772	-4.5	737
Kamloops	C	79,544	2.0	81,130	0.7	81,737	0.3	81,958
Logan Lake	DM	2,583	1.1	2,612	-0.9	2,589	-2.8	2,516
Lytton	VL	336	-1.5	331	-1.5	326	-1.8	320
Merritt	C	7,940	1.2	8,032	1.2	8,126	-0.9	8,054
British Columbia		**3,882,043**	**2.0**	**3,961,400**	**1.0**	**4,002,777**	**0.7**	**4,029,253**

Source:
Population Section, BC Stats,
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations,
Government of British Columbia.

Notes:
All figures correspond to municipal boundaries as of July 1st of the year stated.
All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.

C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,
IGD = Indian Government District.

** Denotes a boundary change between 1996 and 1999.*

*** Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast and Powell River Regional Districts.*

† 1996 figures include an estimate of net census undercount.

Infoline

November 5, 1999

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/99	% change on one year ago
BC	4,029.3	0.7
Canada	30,568.0	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	1997	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	109,347	3.3
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	98,201	2.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,775	0.1
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	16,340	-2.3
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Aug	3,123	10.8
Merchandise Exports (raw) Aug	2,454	4.7
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Aug	2,788	1.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	Sep '99	% change on one year ago
BC	112.2	2.0
Canada	111.4	2.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '99	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,049	0.1
Employed - BC	1,897	0.7
Unemployed - BC	152	-6.5
		Oct '98
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.4	8.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	8.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 3/99	Nov 4/98
Prime Business Rate	6.25	7.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.35	6.50
- 5 year	8.25	6.75
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 3/99	Nov 4/98
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4687	1.5238
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6814	0.6579
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep '99	% change on one year ago
BC	629.51	0.2
Canada	603.16	2.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

BC Population Still Growing in 1999

Estimates of population as of July 1, 1999 for British Columbia and its regional districts and municipalities were released this week.

Despite showing a significant outflow of population between 1998 and 1999, British Columbia recorded the third fastest rate of growth (0.7%) among the provinces after Alberta and Ontario.

The Lower Mainland's population grew only slightly faster than the province overall while the Victoria area registered a very small decline.

The area around Whistler led population growth, with Whistler itself doubling in size since 1991. Although Whistler's rate of growth slowed somewhat, nearby communities benefited from the spillover of Whistler's saturation. Tofino, on Vancouver Island, also saw strong growth as this area diversifies its economic base away from resource industries.

For details at the municipal and regional district level, see the previous section of today's *Infoline*. For more history on these and other areas, visit our web site:

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

and click on the link.

Released this week by BC STATS

- Tourism Room Revenue, July 1999
- Small Business Quarterly, Second Quarter 1999

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, October 1999
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, Third Quarter 1999

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